

process to continue to flower in New Haven. Jean is keenly aware that New Haven is nothing without a strong and active artistic community and she has done everything possible to allow that community to thrive. Her work reminds us all that we have an obligation to support the arts and to make art accessible to everyone. She has truly brought the world to New Haven and in doing so has enriched the lives of everyone who participates in or enjoys the arts.

SUPPORT OF ALEXIS HERMAN FOR SECRETARY OF LABOR

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this Nation, a recent editorial I read in the largest Spanish-American newspaper in the Americas. *Diario Las Americas*, in their February 27, 1997, edition, called for the confirmation of Ms. Alexis Herman as our next Secretary of Labor. I must agree wholeheartedly with its endorsement, and call on the Senate to confirm her, expeditiously.

As the newspaper points out, Alexis Herman has a lifetime of positive public service, which highlights her efforts to improve the progress and lives of women, African-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans. As the President's Assistant and Director of the Office of Public Liaison, she has shown us her savvy, expertise, and experience. I am also proud to say that she is a native of one of the finest States in the Union, Alabama.

The Senate Republican leader, Senator TRENT LOTT has endorsed her nomination after a series of meetings with Ms. Herman. With this fact taken into consideration, I can't think of any legitimate reason why the Senate can't complete its committee process and bring Ms. Herman's nomination to the floor for a vote. I am confident, that once the whole Senate reviews the record of Alexis Herman, they will confirm her.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the whole text of the newspaper endorsement which I mentioned, be placed in the RECORD.

[From the *Diario Las Americas*, Feb. 27, 1997]
ALEXIS HERMAN FOR SECRETARY OF LABOR OF THE UNITED STATES

The nomination by President Clinton of Alexis Herman for Secretary of Labor of the United States is the recognition of her professional, humanitarian and civic merits, proven by her intense public service career which began as Coordinator of the crusade to train and find jobs for youths sponsored by the Catholic Church in Mobile, Alabama, and most recently as Director of the Office of Public Liaison of the White House and Special Assistant to the President.

Her life in public service has engaged her, after graduating from Xavier University, in a rich and varied number of activities devoted to the professional betterment of Afro-American women, succeeding in her efforts as Director of the Black Women's Employment Program to have companies such as Coca-Cola and Delta appoint Afro-American women to high ranking positions.

In her efforts to improve women's progress in the work and entrepreneurial ranks she has constantly maintained the principle that

the Hispanic minority must be recognized as a vital part of progress in the United States, offering her enthusiastic support to the programs sponsored by the Hispanic Catholic Centers of the Washington Archdiocese. Mrs. Herman has been the main line of communication between His Eminence James Cardinal Hickey and President Clinton for issues having to do with the development of vital social programs for Hispanic and Afro-American minorities.

At the time of the crisis brought about by the assassination of the four "Brothers to the Rescue" pilots by the totalitarian tyranny of Fidel Castro in February 1996, from her post in the Office of Public Liaison of the White House she collaborated with then UN Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright, and others, in the formulation of President Clinton's policy in reprisal to that attack.

Alexis Herman has enough merits as a woman, as a prominent member of the Afro-American minority and as a professional, to be confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of Labor. This would be good for the whole country. The Senate's Republican leader Trent Lott has said that he will support the nomination and *DIARIO LAS AMERICAS* considers that the Senate should approve it as soon as possible.

WILL AN AMERICAN "TOMMY" PLEASE STAND?

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Tom Harney, an attorney in San Jose, CA, has written a thought-provoking article in a recent edition of *Stars and Stripes* which concerns the debt we owe our veterans and soldiers. For those who do not regularly receive *Stars and Stripes*, I wish to make this useful article available.

[From the *Stars and Stripes*, Jan. 26, 1997]

WILL AN AMERICAN "TOMMY" PLEASE STAND?
(By Thomas Roy Harney)

Rudyard Kipling's poem "Tommy" rose from the depths of my so-called brain recently, triggered and recalled from those depths by the print-media news.

Tommy, a lawyer's guide to veterans affairs, is the name of the quarterly newsletter published by the Veterans Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, but I had somehow previously failed to make the obvious connection between the poem and the newsletter.

The poem "Tommy" is from a different time, 1892; a different country, Great Britain; and almost a different language, English Cockney; yet it is right on point concerning American veterans and all Americans today.

"Tommy Atkins" or "Tommy" is the British equivalent of the American GI (e.g., Bill Mauldin's Willie and Joe in his popular cartoon series "Up Front"), and "Tommy Atkins" is the speaker in Kipling's poem.

The speaker is calling our attention to the gross disparity in the value that the citizenry places on its soldiers. The unjust disparity he observes is the miserable treatment accorded the soldier and ex-soldier in peacetime, contrasted with their treatment when the winds of war are blowing or, as Tommy puts it, when "there's trouble in the wind."

Kipling's tribute to Mr. Thomas Atkins is relevant today, because in 1996, more than 100 years after it was penned by him, an American "Tommy" wouldn't have to look too far for modern-day American examples to support his disparity contention.

Were he writing today, Kipling's Mr. Atkins could have cited the statement released by Pentagon officials recently that the military logs for an eight-day period during which thousands of American troops might have been exposed to nerve gas and other Iraqi chemical weapons shortly after the Persian Gulf war appear to have been removed or lost and cannot be located despite an exhaustive search.

There are several mysterious gaps in the otherwise meticulous combat logs. The gaps include the period in early March 1991 in which American combat engineers blew up the sprawling Kamisiyah ammunition depot in southern Iraq, an event that exposed thousands of American troops to nerve gas.

One wonders if "Mr. Tommy Atkins" would feel the need to point out that at one time the Defense Department had denied to Congress that such combat logs even existed, and the DoD released the logs last year only after a Georgia veterans group sought them under the Freedom of Information Act.

Only recently has the Pentagon acknowledged that the nerve gas sarin and other chemical weapons had definitely been stored in the Iraqi ammunition depot at Kamisiyah that was destroyed by U.S. troops in March 1991.

That event at the Kamisiyah ammunition depot exposing thousands of U.S. soldiers to a cloud of the nerve gas sarin and other deadly chemicals, poisoning from anti-nerve gas tablets, and poisoning from pesticides are the presumptive sources of the disabling physical health problems that have been plaguing veterans and children of veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

As an attorney, I respect the way Kipling's speaker, "Mister Atkins," makes his case; his supporting examples are clear and visual, his logic is straightforward and his closing line poses a clear point for all Americans to ponder.

The concerned but muted and fragmented chorus of American voices would do well to find a present-day point man like "Tommy Atkins" who, armed with fresh examples to support his disparity contention, could forcefully champion the rights of responsible Americans and blast his closing line to Pentagon officials, the Defense Department, the VA and others—shouting, with the last words of the poem, "Bloomin fools" we're not.

THE SCANDAL-A-DAY ADMINISTRATION

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as someone who has been looking into the dealings of the Clinton administration related to campaign fundraising, possible breaches of national and economic security and other indiscretions, this past week has been very interesting. It would appear that there is no end to the sheer arrogance and deliberate skirting of the law under which this administration has operated. No law, and certainly no ethical standard, appear to forestall any efforts by this President to further his personal and political interests and those of his associates. From dealings with a foreign company and officials with close ties to the People's Republic of China that likely jeopardized important economic and national secrets, to encouraging meetings at the White House with DNC political fundraisers, major